GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2157
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2003
LONG TERM PLAN FOR INLAND WATER TRANSPORT
RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed any long term plan to develop Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a separate task force is proposed to be set up in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In order to develop the sector the Government have taken certain policy measures and drawn up an Inland Water Transport Policy. The main features of the policy are-

(i) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has been authorized to raise money from market by way of bonds.

(ii) Joint Venture by IWAI to encourage private investment.

(iii) Equity participation by Government in BOT projects.

(iv) Income Tax exemption similar to National Highways.

(v) Introduction of Inland Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme of 30% to encourage fleet expansion.

(vi) Enhancement of depreciation rate for inland vessels fixed at par with sea-going vessels.

(vii) Customs duty concessions for equipment and Machinery related to IWT development.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.